

Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - JULY 2019			
Time	July 7 Pentecost 4	July 14 Pentecost 5	July 21 Pentecost 6
8.00 am	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Susan Karoly Peter Baker Communion	Ross Mackinnon Rev. Neil Peters Communion
9.15 am	Ross Mackinnon Daniel Sihombing Communion	Rev. Neil Peters	Rev. Neil Peters
11.00 am	Jan Clear Daniel Sihombing	Rev. Neil Peters	Rev. Neil Peters
1.00 pm	Indonesian Service	Indonesian Service	Indonesian Service
4.30 pm	(School Holidays)	(School Holidays)	Children & Families
5.30 pm	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw
Lectionary	2 Kings 5:1-14	Amos 7:7-17	Amos 8:1-12
	Psalms 30	Psalms 82	Psalms 52
Liturgical Colour	Galations 6:(1-6), 7-16	Colossians 1:1-14	Colossians 1:15-28
	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Luke 10:25-37	Luke 10:38-42
	Green	Green	Green
			July 28 Pentecost 7
			10am Combined Service Ministry Team followed by Congregational Meeting
			Indonesian Service
			-
			-
			Hosea 1:2-10
			Psalms 85
			Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
			Luke 11:1-13
			Green

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

- 2 June 9.15am & 11am Uniting World visitor - Alexandra Bingham
- 7-10 June 10am State Youth Games
- 23 June Combined Anniversary Service and Lunch

You are invited to our **Church Anniversary**
Sunday 23 June at 10am
 which will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch.
 Come along and share in worship and fellowship.
 Enquiries to the church office.
What to bring: A-L - Savouries, M-Z - Sweets, Soup provided.

JULY

- 7 July 9.15am & 11am Daniel Sihombing visiting
- 28 July 10am Combined Service followed by Congregational Meeting



Overview of visit to GMIM (Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa) in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, May 15 - 23

WHO? 7 members of our congregation attended: Vida Foo, Susan Chan, Rev Neil Peters, Lucky Kalonta, Wille and Yoke Cornelis and Glyn Howells as well as Lina Liu.



All ready to go.

WHERE? Visited perhaps half a dozen churches and attended worship in a number of homes (*kolums*) and churches. Most time spent with Riedell church members. Vida, Susan and Lina taught Sunday school ("Jesus loves me"), and had a marvellous meeting with the GMIM Moderator along with a Church Council (Manado), a prison chaplain, youth workers, the superintendent of a GMIM orphanage and many ministers, parishioners and deacons and elders.

Visited towns of Manado (international airport), Tondano (where we mostly stayed), Tomohon (GMIM Synod Headquarters) and Bitung (port city) along with parishioners' homes, farms and beauty spots.

Had meetings with mayors of Tomohon and Bitung.

OUTCOMES AND INSIGHTS

GMIM and its ubiquitous churches are central institutions in North Sulawesi. There is a very strong faith community.

Amazing warm welcome and generous hospitality from Moderator of GMIM, clergy, deacons and elders, and church members.



In Tondano with friends from Riedell congregation

The Christian Church in the World (June)

'New Sudan' in sight but not yet in hand.

After 30 years of racism, jihad, repression and hardship at the hands of Sudan's Islamist and Arab-supremacist government, Sudan's diverse peoples have had enough! Protests erupted on 19 December. On 22 February President Omar al-Bashir deployed his militias against the people. On 11 April al-Bashir - who came to power in a military coup - was ousted by a military coup. The military then appointed a ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC). But the protesters - who have come to Khartoum from all over Sudan - said 'no' to military rule, 'no' to political Islam, 'no' to Arab hegemony and 'no' to Sharia law which the TMC insists should remain the bedrock of the constitution. A 'New Sudan' is in sight, but not yet in hand. These are dangerous, watershed days. Please pray for Sudan and its Church.

from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

Terrorists target the church in Burkina Faso

On Sunday 28 April gunmen attacked a church in Sirgadiji in north-eastern Burkina Faso. The worship over, the believers were chatting outside when a dozen militants swept in on motorcycles, demanding everyone convert to Islam. The believers refused. After burning their Bibles and phones the militants executed their captives one by one. Pater Pierre Ouedraogo (80), his son, his brother-in-law and three other church members were martyred. Relatives had advised Paster Pierre to flee the region, but he refused to leave the church. Both al-Qaeda and Islamic State are active in Burkina Faso; terror is escalating. Islamis State has long encouraged its supporters to unleash terror at home and recently declared it will specifically target 'crusaders', i.e., Christians and Westerners. Please pray for Burkina Faso and its Church.

from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

This connects with "Love to the World": Revelation 21 and 22 "May persecuted Christians remain faithful despite their suffering."

"God will prevail; in the end the darkness of their world is overcome and there is light."

"May we never lose sight of God's faithfulness."

Toilet Cleaning Regime

The work of our congregation to be in and within the community has been so successful, that we now have a new challenge - to maintain our facilities at an appropriate level of cleanliness.

Given the number of people attending our property, weekly cleaning of the toilet facilities is just not adequate. Due to their high usage, the toilets are difficult to clean by our dedicated cleaning volunteers and so it has become increasingly necessary to do it more than once a week. This has meant that often a small band of helpers, and even the Office Manager, have had to clean the toilets before meetings, so that users can enjoy a safe and clean set of facilities.

So reluctantly, we have decided that we now need to trial the employment of commercial toilet cleaning.

Initially, we are going to trial from July to December 2019, with a 6-day cleaning regime, but with some reductions during school holidays.

This will also mean we can then release some of our very dedicated Area 3 personnel to help in other areas and thereby reduce the overall workload for all our volunteers.

To defray but not fully cover this cleaning expense, we are imposing a levy on hiring groups and a smaller levy on some of the church activities where they are currently charging their guests and members to attend (eg. Playgroup, Badminton, etc). The levy will be a small fixed amount, not an hourly charge like our usual hiring costs. This levy will help reduce the overall cost, but the congregation will still have to accept responsibility for the major portion of the cost, as it is the congregational activities that place the highest level of demand on our toilets.

Early in 2020 we will review the success, or otherwise, of the trial and with Church Council, the Treasurer and Finance Committee determine our next steps.

We thank you for your understanding on this matter, and we wish to thank all the volunteers who have tried so hard to maintain the facilities so well and we hope that this new approach will significantly improve the toilet facilities for all users. Effected volunteers will be contacted separately on their roster changes.

Warren Greenwood
on behalf of the Property Committee

Their level and depth of organization reflect this centrality.

Nearly 1,000 congregations, 2300 pastors (majority women); 26,000 deacons and elders (37 in Riedell).

Kolum = arguably foundation of church life: 15 – 25 families in a neighbourhood make up a *kolum* (cell group) with one deacon and one elder to lead.

People of all ages attend including children.

Meet weekly in a home for worship/ pastoral/community/ supper.

Women, men, youth from *kolum* meet separately each week.

Worship: singing and music central – different *kolums* sing in turn week by week in church services + everyone over 60/65 sings, women sing, men sing separately = mass participation.

Every person in church shook our hands after service.

Pastors take weekly services in government offices, the local markets, hospitals, businesses because vast majority of population are faithful Christians.

Like us and the UCA they have challenges. GMIM is a well-resourced and independent church keen to work together with the UCA, with our congregation and with other UCA congregations.

We were privileged to be the first UCA visitors since the MOU was signed in February between GMIM and the UCA. Leaders from our Indonesian fellowship (Lucky, Willie and Yoke) along with locals who had visited us from GMIM over recent years were wonderful ambassadors linking us closely to the local



Evening Service with youth at Zion Winangun, Manado

community. Our group worked well as a team and reflected the rich diversity of our congregation. A special thank you is due to Vida Foo for her untiring translation and liaison role. Neil who stayed an extra week, will have a lot more to share as we work out how to follow up and build our work together in the name of Jesus. We all returned enriched and renewed in our faith and hope for the future.

Glyn Howells, Church Council Chairperson, 29 May

Inclusive Community Report. June 2019.

Prayer Support Group. If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed in the prayer book, we do have a prayer support group. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed onto group members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you need more information, contact the office, during office hours or Beverly on 0417 359 779. Thanks to the fifteen people who make up the prayer support group.

Bring and Share Lunch. You are ALL invited to the Bring and Share Lunch after the 11am service TODAY 2 June. Bring a plate of food to share. This lunch will be held in the Fellowship area and some of our ecumenical visitors may join us. Enquiries Church Office.

On **Mothers' Day** we had our special morning tea between services (9.15 and 11am). It was lovely to see so many people joining us. Thanks to the helpers.

Munch with a Bunch lunch was held last Sunday, 26 May in the hall. About 46 people enjoyed the spit roast. Thanks to Alanee and the young people for setting up the furniture for the lunch.

This Sunday we are pleased to welcome **ecumenical visitors** from the Anglican Parish of St. Stephen and St. Mary, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic church and Holy Family Catholic church. We hope that you enjoy your visit.

There will be a **light lunch** this month on Sunday 9 June. We will have soup and finger food.

On Sunday 23 June we will have a congregational lunch following the **Church Anniversary** combined service. If your surname begins with the letters A-L, please bring a plate of something savoury. If your surname begins with the letters M-Z, please bring a plate of something sweet.

Our next **Inclusive Community** meeting will be on Monday 3 June at 2pm in Room 2.

If you have suggestions for functions or activities, please let us know.

Jan Clear.

Last week during the 9.15am service, Alanee and the children were talking about **Rainbows**, and they created one using paper towels and water.

It took about 4 days but it worked!!

Apologies for those viewing this in black and white - you'll just have to use your imagination or come and you can see it on the office counter...



Acknowledgement of Australia's First Peoples

- Church Council considered this matter and in late 2018 advised that they feel comfortable with a statement that might be included on a sign or plaque
- The November 2018 meeting of the congregation agreed by consensus that we, as a congregation, would like to progress acknowledgement of Australia's first peoples in some way.
- An open meeting is planned for 16 June at 1pm to discuss the proposed statement, available at [DiscussionRecognitionOfAustraliasFirstPeoples](#).

Material Aid Offering for June Off your back Coat collection

*Help keep a homeless person warm
this winter...*

Do you have a spare winter coat
gathering dust in the back of your
wardrobe? Donate it and help
someone who needs it more than
you!



CONCERT FOR A FREE WEST PAPUA

Saturday 15th June - 2pm - 4pm

High St Road Uniting Church- Glen Waverley

Vocal Duo

The Chromotiques (Jazz to Beatles and Beyond)

Professional Contemporary Flautist

Kym Wilson

Comedian

Helchild

\$25/\$15 (Pensioner, Student)
includes lavish afternoon tea..

Proceeds to assist West Papuans at UN 2019
Enquiries 0402853147

THANK YOU!

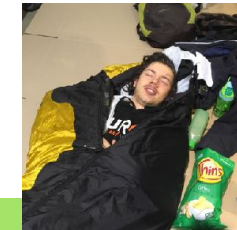
Dear Glen Waverley Uniting Church,
We wanted to Thank You so much for your support in our
sleep at the G.

It was an eye opening experience and we have come away
with even more respect for the workers and the work of
Melbourne City Mission and all the work they do with
homeless young people.

1,938 people slept at the G raising \$1,226,095.

Thank you for your generosity we really appreciate it!

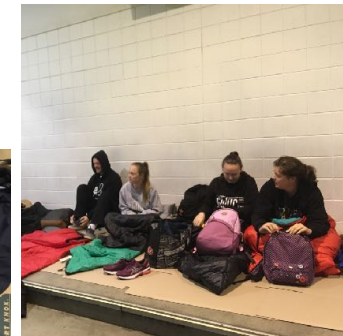
GWUC Youth



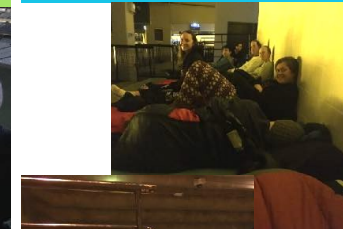
STILL SLEEPING



THE GROUP



MORNING



THE VIEW FROM OUR BEDS

Faith Development Missional Group - BLOGSPOT!

John Birch is a Methodist lay preacher from Wales, UK. When he was training to be a lay preacher, he found official resources weren't always what he wanted for leading worship, so he began to write his own prayers. He also developed an interest in Celtic Christianity and the prayers which have survived from that tradition. As he gathered material, he started his website - Faith and Worship - which has grown over the years to include, not only prayers, but also articles, sermons and Bible studies. He has also published a number of books.

He makes these comments about his website:

From its creation over a decade ago, the web site now attracts not far short of a million visits per year, and feedback from as far afield as Alaska and Tasmania. It has helped many ordinary church members who offered to lead prayers and then turned to Google for help, assisted a lot of church magazine editors looking for material to fill small gaps in their publications, and aided pastors looking for a bit of inspiration. It has led to a collection being translated into Swedish for publication, other writing opportunities, and, on a more personal level, it has touched individual lives through specific prayers for healing or comfort.

I also have an abiding interest in the prayers of the early Christian Church in Britain, generally known as Celtic Christianity. I love the way that the prayer life of these early saints extended into their everyday working environment, that they felt a closeness to both their God and that which surrounded them.

The Internet is a wonderful resource for preachers and leaders of worship. It is also a resource used by people on the fringes who are seeking knowledge, comfort, healing and inspiration. There is a responsibility on Christians who have the technical ability to connect with these people through the medium of their Internet browser. This is their window in the world, and believe me, the world would have them believe all manner of strange things.

The URL for John Birch's website is: <http://www.faithandworship.com>

Ross Mackinnon

Here are some items from
John Birch's website:

One of his own prayers:

Into the daily cycle of our lives
when all seems well
with us and with the world,
when our yoke is easy
and the burden light,
You break in
and scatter our complacency.

Into the daily cycle of our lives
when we are comfortable
and at our ease,
when the fire is lit
but eyes are closed,
You break in and challenge our
dependency.

You break into
our daily prayers,
humble hearts,
lay souls bare,
You break in,
You break in.

You break in
when defences are down,
with an Angel's shout
or the quietest sound,
You break in
You break in

And we change
and all things change
when you break in.

An old Celtic Blessing:

May you have -
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks bedside the fire
Laughter to cheer you
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire



A Celtic proverb:

If God sends you down
a stony path,
may he give you strong
shoes.